

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 645

By Evans

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the sixtieth anniversary of Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should specially recognize those venerable religious institutions which, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, strive to enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable institution is the Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center of Newport, which this year celebrates sixty years of dedicated service to the good people of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, since as early as the 1920s, the Tennessee Baptist Convention has provided extraordinary opportunities for boys and girls from across the State of Tennessee to experience the beauty and wonder of the outdoors through summer camping experiences; and

WHEREAS, in 1947, Tennessee Baptists resolved to open and operate two camps, one in East Tennessee and the other in western Middle Tennessee, for the purpose of training and nurturing boys and girls; and

WHEREAS, with the project spearheaded by Reverend Carl Dow of the First Baptist Church of Newport, the initial idea to found Camp Carson in Newport became a reality; by Governor Ben Hooper and Colonel Charles Rhyne, also from Newport, donated the land on English Mountain where Camp Carson, now called the Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center, stands today; and

WHEREAS, the first buildings on the new property were military barracks shipped in from Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia; now, visitors enjoy full amenities, including five bunk-style and two semi-private lodges that, together, accommodate more than 350 people; a conference

center that includes meeting accommodations for 250 people; thirty-six double-occupancy guest rooms; a dining room; and a certified chef; and

WHEREAS, while construction on the facility began in 1947, the year 1949 is recognized as the official year in which the first summer camps were held; in 2000, new conference center buildings were dedicated, and the name was officially changed from Camp Carson to Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center; and

WHEREAS, today, Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center offers year-round opportunities for youth and adults to escape the rush of life and experience the majesty and holiness of God and the splendor of His creation through the outdoors; and

WHEREAS, because of the magnificent efforts and foresight of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, thousands of people visit Carson Springs each year and gain a clearer picture of who God is; and

WHEREAS, the Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center in Newport has for sixty years provided opportunities that have enriched the lives of the members of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and followers of Christ across and beyond the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend the administration and staff of the Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center, thank them for sixty years of dedicated service to God and to the people of this State, and extend to them our best wishes for every success in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.